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WEB OF EVIL

SEPTEMBER No.6

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ORGY of DEATH



CAN AN ANCIENT EVIL LIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES? ALMOST 4,000 YEARS AGO SCREAMING VICTIMS BY THE HORDES DIED IN MOLOCH'S HELLISH EMBRACE TO SATE THE FRIGHTFUL BLOODLUST OF THE BULL-HEADED DESTROYER OF LIFE! NOW, IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE FEARSOME FIGURE STIRRED TO LIFE, TRAMPING THROUGH THE AWFUL SHADOWS -- UNTIL THE VERY EARTH SHOOK TO THE THUNDER OF GREAT MOLOCH'S VENGEFUL RAGE!

WEB OF EVIL

ANCIENT PHOENICIA WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE MOST HORRIBLE PAGAN RITES IN HISTORY-- THE WORSHIP OF MOLOCH, BULL-HEADED DESTROYER OF LIFE!



THEN CAME THE CULMINATION OF HORRORS!

Straighten up, child! Moloch will be offended if his chosen ones show fright!



RECEIVE OUR SACRIFICES, OH MOLOCH, AND SPARE US YOUR WRATH!

EEEEEAAAHHH!



The SAVAGE GOD GREW EVER MORE OMNIVEROUS! AT ONE TIME 20,000 PRISONERS OF WAR WERE SACRIFICED IN AN ORGY OF SLAUGHTER!



With the Roman conquest of Phoenicia, Emperor Tiberius ordered the frightful worship stamped out!

OVER WITH IT! WE'LL BEAT THE UGLY THING INTO FINE SWORDS!

AIEEEE!
MOLOCH
SAVE US!



WEB OF EVIL

NOT ALL TEMPLES FELL! SOME WERE SPIRITED AWAY IN THE NIGHT, TO REOPEN IN SECRET PLACES, FAR FROM PRYING EYES!



EZBAAL, THE QEDESHIM, OR HIGH PRIEST OF MOLOCH, WAS CAUGHT AND HANGED!

Foul barbarians! Hear me! Lord Moloch will rise one day in the wrath of vengeance to destroy the earth!

BUT YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE IT, BURNER OF BABIES! UP WITH THE DOG! LET HIM DANGLE UNTIL CURED!

ALMOST 2,000 YEARS LATER, A CABIN SEAPLANE DRONED OVER A TINY FORGOTTEN ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF SYRIA...

THERE'S YOUR EZBAAL ISLAND, DR. MORGAN! IT'S NO MORE THAN A VOLCANIC CONE... AND NOT A DEAD VOLCANO, EITHER! SEE THAT SMOKE!



IT CAN'T ERUPT NOW! I'VE SPENT TOO MANY YEARS HUNTING CLUES TO THE LOST TEMPLE OF MOLOCH, ALAN! I'VE GOT TO STUDY THE RUINS!

ALAN ISN'T INTERESTED IN ANYTHING BUT FLYING, UNCLE MORGAN! HE CAN'T APPRECIATE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S EXCITEMENT!



I CAN APPRECIATE ANYTHING THAT INTERESTS YOU, LELA!

ALAN LOGAN, YOU STICK TO YOUR FLYING! I'M HERE TO TRANSLATE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS, NOT ROMANTIC HINTS! COME ON...



HOW ODD! THERE ISN'T A SOUL IN SIGHT AND IT'S ALMOST DARK!

LISTEN! ISN'T THAT THE SOUND OF CHANTING FROM UP THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE?



LOOK! FAR UP THE MOUNTAIN, THERE--SOMETHING GLOWING AS IF WHITE HOT!

IT'S MOLOCH--A MONSTROUS STATUE OF MOLOCH! FASTER! WE MAY SEE AN ANCIENT SACRIFICIAL CEREMONY IN THE LOST TEMPLE!



WEB OF EVIL

MOMENTS LATER, THEY BURST ONTO AN INCREDIBLE SCENE...



WEB OF EVIL

QUIET, LELA!
THIS IS THE
ONLY WAY TO
SAVE OUR
NECKS!

HOLD! I AM A
GREATER QECHIM
THAN YOUR PRIESTS!
I WAS SENT BY
GREAT MOLOCH
HIMSELF TO REWARD
YOUR AGES OF FAITH,
TO AID YOU!

WHO STRUCK
DOWN THE
DESECRATOR OF
YOUR FAITH? I
DID! HEED ME, AND
KNOW THAT GREATER
REWARDS LIE
AHEAD FOR
YOU!

ALAN, DARLING!
ALAN, WAKE
UP! UNCLE
MORGAN WAS ONLY
TRYING TO
SAVE US!
HE HAD TO
STRIKE YOU!

IF YOU ARE
FROM MOLOCH,
WHERE IS THE
SACRIFICE? THE
GIRL IS GONE...
RELEASED
BY YOUR
COMPANION!

BUT SEE... I
HAVE FELLED
THIS MAN AS
YOUR GREATER
SACRIFICE!
COME, TAKE HIM
FOR THE CEREMONY
OF MOLOCH!

UNCLE MORGAN,
ARE YOU MAD?
THAT'S ALAN! YOU
CAN'T GIVE HIM TO
THOSE... THOSE
BEASTS TO BURN
IN MOLOCH'S LAP!

MY DEAR LELA, THIS
IS OUR ONLY HOPE!
WE'D ALL BURN THERE
IF I DIDN'T OFFER
THEM A SACRIFICE!
WE CAN ALWAYS GET
ANOTHER PILOT!

YOU
RAT!

ALAN!
ALAN...!
BUT THE
FAVORITE
SACRIFICE
OF MOLOCH
IS A GIRL!

THEN WHY DO YOU
WAIT? YOU HAVE
MAN AND GIRL IN
YOUR GRASP!

YOU MADMAN!
THAT'S YOUR OWN
NIECE YOU'RE
CONDEMNING TO
HORRIBLE DEATH!
ARE YOU INSANE?

CHAIN THEM IN THE
SACRIFICIAL PEN! MOLOCH
WILL APPRECIATE MY GREAT
SACRIFICE! THE GIRL WAS
LIKE A DAUGHTER TO ME!

HE'S MAD... MAD!
MY OWN UNCLE!

COURAGE, LELA! I'VE
BEEN BUCKING TOUGH
ODDS ALL MY LIFE! NOT
AS TOUGH AS THIS, MAY-
BE... BUT WE'RE NOT
DEAD YET!

WEB OF EVIL

THROUGH THE LONG NIGHT THEY CROUCHED IN THEIR PRISON, HEARING THE TRIUMPHANT CHANTING OF THE CROWD OUTSIDE!

HEAR THAT, ALAN? THEY'VE STOPPED SHOUTING AND STARTED CHANTING AGAIN!

MAYBE YOUR UNCLE HAS FINALLY PERSUASSED THEM HE'S A BOSS-PRIEST! THEN HE'LL TELL THEM TO FREE US AND THEY'LL DO IT!

HAAH-AH-AH...



YOU FOOLS! THE EARLY RECORDS SHOW THE TEMPLE OF MOLOCH HAD ORNAMENTS VALUED AT A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS! IT IS HIDDEN HERE, SOMEWHERE!

YOU DIRTY RAT!



PERHAPS! BUT ONCE I WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE, THEY'LL SHOW ME WHERE THE TREASURES ARE HIDDEN! ARE YOUR STUPID LIVES WORTH THAT?



I UNDERSTAND, NOW! MY FATHER LEFT ME ALL HIS MONEY! YOU'VE ALWAYS RESENTED HAVING TO ASK ME FOR FINANCING! YOU HATE ME!

THE GIRL AND THE MAN -- THEY ARE DEARER THAN MY OWN CHILDREN TO ME! BUT FOR MOLOCH, I WILL GLADLY OFFER THEM TO THE FIRE!

IF THEY TRULY DIE TONIGHT, THEN WE WILL BOW TO YOU -- AS OUR HIGH PRIEST!



THE HORRIBLE MONSTER! NOW I KNOW WHY CERTAIN INSCRIPTIONS HE FOUND WERE HIDDEN FROM ME! HE'S BEEN AFTER THIS TREASURE FOR YEARS!

A HUNDRED MILLION ISN'T HAY, KITTEN! BETTER MEN THAN YOUR UNCLE HAVE BLOWN THEIR CORKS OVER LESS!



THROUGH THE LONG DAY THEY MADE AND DISCARDED A HUNDRED HOPELESS PLANS FOR ESCAPE! THERE WAS NO ESCAPE FROM MOLOCH'S GREED!

IT ALL ADDS UP TO THE SAME, HONEY... EVEN IF WE BREAK AWAY, WE'VE GOT A MOB AGAINST US! WE'D NEVER REACH MY PLANE!

IT'S HOPELESS, BUT... ALAN! THAT NOISE... LIKE THUNDER!



DON'T BE SILLY, DEAR BOY! THE ONLY WAY I COULD WIN THEM WAS BY PROMISING TWO HUMAN SACRIFICES! THEY'D KILL ME IF I FAILED!





WEB OF EVIL



WEB OF EVIL



WEB OF EVIL

CAN ONE MAN HAVE THE POWER TO POINT OUT THE LYING DEAD... THOSE WHOM FATE HAS MARKED FOR AN EARLY GRAVE? FANTASTIC? IMPOSSIBLE? PERHAPS - BUT JOHN DURRAND WOULD MOCK YOU ... FOR DESTINY HAD DIRECTED THAT HE SHOULD BECOME...

The Man Who Saw Doom



ON A DREARY CITY STREET A GLOVED HAND KNOCKS HEAVILY UPON A PANELED DOOR!

IT SWINGS OPEN AND A STRANGE LITTLE MAN STANDS IN THE ENTRANCE...

MY NAME IS DURAND! I DESPERATELY SEEK CONTACT WITH THE FUTURE! THEY SAY THE GREAT ARNAR CAN HELP ME!

ENTER, MR. DURAND! I AM HERE TO SERVE THOSE WHO WOULD TEAR ASIDE THE VEIL THAT CONCEALS THE GREAT BEYOND!



YOU REALIZE I SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH I SEE -BE IT HAPPINESS OR TRAGEDY!

I DO! PLEASE PROCEED! I'M ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHAT AWAITS ME IN THE FUTURE!



ARNAR'S EYES FILL WITH A STRANGE UNHOLY LIGHT! A MUFFLED CRY ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES THROUGH THE CHAMBER!

BEWARE THE EVIL OF THE FUTURE. FEAR WILL FOLLOW YOU.. FEAR . FEAR..

I SEE SHADOWS OF UNHAPPINESS, MR. DURRAND! THE VOICE OF THE FUTURE CAUTIONS YOU!

I-I CAN TELL YOU NO MORE AT THIS MOMENT! LATER, AT ANOTHER VISIT PERHAPS! MY FEE IS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS!

I TRUST YOU ARE SATISFIED!

YES...

.I'M SATISFIED ALL RIGHT ARNAR! I'M SPECIAL AGENT, JOHN DURRAND! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR FRAUD. WE'RE OUT TO RID THE CITY OF YOU CHARLATANS!

AN IMPOSTER! YOU ARE A FOOL MR DURRAND!

AS THE HINDU MYSTIC RIDES TO JAIL ...

YOU CHARACTERS ARE REAL CRACKPOTS TO BELIEVE YOU CAN CHEAT PEOPLE FOREVER WITH THAT MUMBO JUMBO, ARNAR!

THERE ARE MANY UNBELIEVERS IN THE WORLD, MR. DURRAND! I REALIZE YOU ARE ONLY DOING YOUR DUTY, BUT PERHAPS I CAN GIVE YOU AN INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF THE OCCULT AND SUPERNATURAL!

WAIT! YOU SCOFF AT MY WISDOM, DURRAND! WEAR THIS RING WHILE MY BODY AND SPIRIT ARE IMPRISONED! IT WILL ENDOW YOU WITH THE GREAT GIFT OF THE FUTURE IT HAS GIVEN ME! DO YOU DARE, DURRAND?

YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO SOME IDIOT WITH MORE MONEY THAN BRAINS ARNAR! SURE! I'LL HOLD THAT THING FOR YOU TILL YOU GET OUT! MY WIFE WILL GET A KICK OUT OF IT!



ONE MORE THING, MR. DURRAND.. BEWARE THE BLANK FACES!

SURE, SURE! BUT TAKE MY ADVICE AND FORGET THAT CRAZY TALK OF THE FUTURE BEFORE THEY SHIP YOU UP TO THE LAUGHING ACADEMY!



THE MAN WHO SCOFFS AT THE SUPERNATURAL REACHES THE CURB! HE OPENS THE DOOR OF THE CAB! SUDDENLY, HORROR TEARS AT HIS BRAIN AS.. WHERE TO, MAC? G-GREAT SCOTT! HIS FACE... IT'S A BLANK!



THE IRATE CABBLE SPEEDS OFF-- AND SUDDEN DEATH HOVERS OVERHEAD ..

T-THE STEEL GIRDER! STOP! STOP!



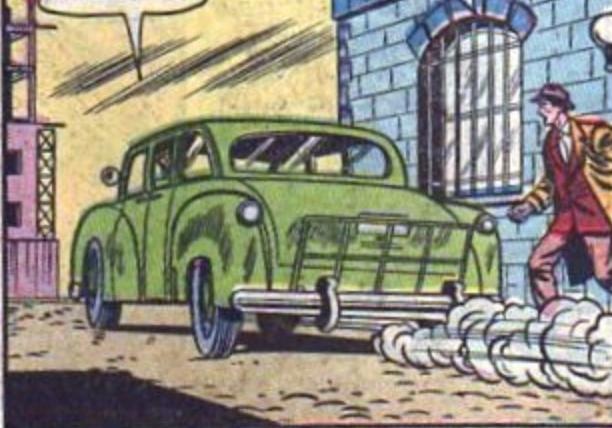
THAT EVENING, AS DURRÄND AWAKENS FROM A DEEP SLEEP..

AH, I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN! I WAS A FOOL TO BECOME ALARMED! IT'S NOTHING BUT A FLASHY MAGICIAN'S RING! IMAGINE, THINKING IT COULD FORECAST DEATH TO PEOPLE WITH BLANK FACES.. BETTER GET DOWN TO THE OFFICE AND CATCH UP ON MY WORK!



SOME NUT! ACTS LIKE HE'S SEEN A GHOST OR SOMETHING! LET 'IM GRAB SOMEBODY ELSE!

A-A GHOSTLY BLANK FACE.. L-LIKE ARNAR'S WARNING! IT MUST BE MY NERVES! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!



THEN, AS IF ARNAR'S OWN HAND HAD DEALT THE BLOW, THE CAB DRIVER MEETS HIS END ...



THAT LITTLE FIEND ARNAR! HE'S HYPNOTIZED ME IN SOME MANNER! MADE ME THINK I SAW A BLANK FACE! IT'S JUST A FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE.. THAT MAN DYING AFTERWARD! I MUST CONTROL MY NERVES.. GET SOME REST..



BUT FATE IS NOT FINISHED WITH DURRÄND! SOON...

JOHN, THAT WAS SOME ACCIDENT ON THE PIKE TODAY! DOING A LITTLE NIGHT WORK?

THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS ER.. A BIT KNOCKED OUT TOOK THE AFTERNOON OFF!



WEB OF EVIL

THE FRIENDLY CONVERSATION IS SUDDENLY CUT SHORT! DURRAND REELS BACK FROM THE ELEVATOR -- HIS CASUAL EXPRESSION TURNING TO ONE OF COMPLETE AND UTTER HORROR!



W-WAIT, YOU FOOL! THERE'S GOING TO BE A DREADFUL ACCIDENT.. SIX WILL DIE! YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME.. YOU MUST!

THAT CHARACTER'S FLIPPING HIS LID!

STEP ASIDE, MISTER! THAT CAR'S GOT TO LEAVE!



FROZEN WITH FEAR, DURRAND GLARES AT THE FLOOR INDICATOR! THE EXPRESS ROCKETS UPWARD! THEN..



SIX OF THEM DEAD! THE MECHANIC SAYS THE SAFETY DEVICE FAILED WHEN THE CABLE GAVE! ROUGH, HUH?

YEAH.. AND STRANGE! WE JUST HAD TROUBLE WITH A GUY WHO WARNED US ABOUT AN ACCIDENT.. SAID SIX WOULD DIE! I THINK I'D BETTER MAKE A REPORT!



T-THIS IS ALL SO INCREDIBLE.. I MUST GATHER MY WITS TOGETHER -- THERE'S GOT TO BE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION..

THAT CAT..



WEB OF EVIL

H-HERE, KITTY..KITTY! DON'T..CROSS
THE STREET..COME BACK, KITTY!



BUT THE CAT DOES NOT RESPOND TO DURRAND'S FRANTIC CALL!
THE SILENCE IS SHATTERED BY THE ROAR OF A POWERFUL
ENGINE AND ...



IT..WON'T BUDGE! IT'S HIDEOUS
BAND HAS LOCKED ITS CURSE
UPON ME! I MUST GET HELP..
SOMEONE TO
CUT IT OFF MY
FINGER! A --A
JEWELER ..



BUT THE HOUR IS LATE AND THE COALS OF AGONY BURN BRIGHT IN
JOHN DURRAND AS HE SEEKS OUT HELP...IN VAIN!



P-PLEASE..LET ME IN..BEFORE I
SEE DEATH AGAIN! YOU MUST!
IN HEAVEN'S NAME YOU MUST!

STOP ALL
THAT RUMPS!
YOUNG FELLER?
I'LL OPEN UP IN
A MINUTE!



THIS RING..YOU MUST
CUT IT FROM MY FINGER
AT ONCE! I'LL PAY YOU
ANYTHING TO TAKE
IT OFF!



CALM DOWN! I NEVER
SAW ANYONE SO HOT
AND BOthered OVER
A WEDGED RING! COME
BACK TO MY WORK
BENCH AND I'LL PUT
THE JEWELER'S
SAW TO IT!.



WEB OF EVIL



PERHAPS ONE DAY YOU WILL COME UPON THE RING OF ARNAR! AND SHOULD IT BE FOR SALE PONDER WELL BEFORE YOU PURCHASE IT! AND REMEMBER THE FATE OF JOHN DURRARD.. THE MAN WHO SAW DEATH!

WEB OF EVIL

THE HIRED KILLER MOVED CONFIDENTLY THROUGH THE UNDERGROUND - FOR DEATH WAS A BED FELLOW OF THE MAN WHO WORKED AT MURDER! BUT, ONCE ACCEPTED, THE COLD HAND OF THE BEYOND IS SLOW TO RELEASE ITS GRIP - SO IT WAS THAT BARKER CRANE COULD NOT FIGHT OFF THE CURSE THAT SHADOWED HIM .. NOR COULD HE HOPE TO BLOT OUT...

The SPECTRE'S FACE

STOP PLAGUING ME!
YOU'RE NOT REAL,
YOU'RE NOT ALIVE!



A KILLER STALKS THE STREETS! TALL, GAUNT, STEEL-EYED ... READY TO PEDELL HIS WARES FOR A "PAY OFF" AND THE PRICE OF A BULLET!

BETTER LET HIM CATCH IT IN THE DOORWAY!



WEB OF EVIL



ANOTHER DEATH ANOTHER DOLLAR! THE KILLER WENDS HIS WAY THROUGH DIM CITY STREETS -- BACK TO HIS LAIR OF BLOOD AND EVIL ...



INSIDE, ACCOMPLICES GATHER ROUND TO PAY HOMAGE TO THEIR ICY-NERVED MARKS-MAN! BUT WAIT, SOMETHING IS STRANGELY AMISS IN THIS GAME OF SUDDEN DEATH ...

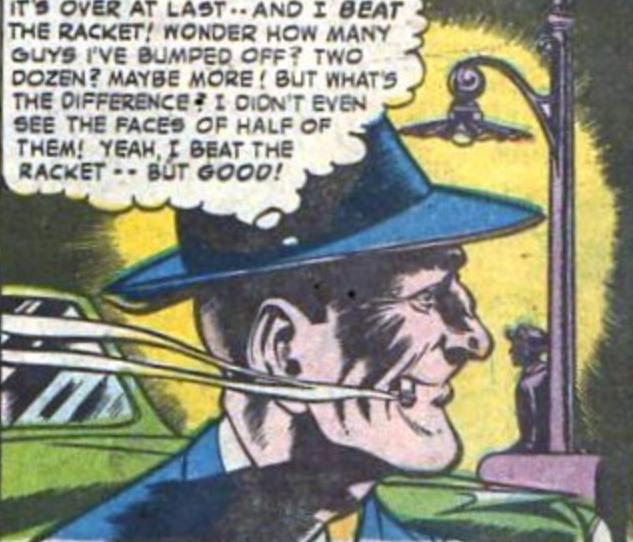


NOT NUTS! SMART! I'VE GOT A BUCK AND I'M THROUGH BUTCHERING! THAT KILLING WAS FOR FREE BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANY HARD FEELINGS! UNDERSTAND! I'M PLAYING IT RESPECTABLE HERE ON OUT! ALL RIGHT, CHUNKER?

W-WHY SURE, BARKER! SURE, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FIGURE IT!



IT'S OVER AT LAST-- AND I BEAT THE RACKET! WONDER HOW MANY GUYS I'VE BUMPED OFF? TWO DOZEN? MAYBE MORE! BUT WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE FACES OF HALF OF THEM! YEAH, I BEAT THE RACKET -- BUT GOOD!



STEP BY STEP, DEATH'S HENCHMAN MOVES INTO THE WORLD OF RESPECTABILITY! THE MUCK AND MIRE OF CRIMEDOM IS BEHIND HIM.. HE HAS FORGED A FORTUNE WITH THE GUN.. HE HAS BEATEN THE RACKETS!



HOLD STILL, FOLKS!
GOT TO HAVE A PICTURE
OF OUR CLUB PICNIC!

WEB OF EVIL

BUT BARKER CRANE HAD NOT RECKONED WITH THE POWER OF THE PAST IN HIS SURGE UP SOCIETY'S LADDER! SHORTLY ...

WHY, BARKER, THERE'S THE STRANGEST THING IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH I TOOK AT THE PICNIC! LOOK!

LET'S SEE IT, EDITH!

THAT HORRIBLE PERSON HOVERING OVER YOU, BARKER! WHERE DID HE COME FROM? NOBODY SAW HIM AT THE PICNIC!

W-WHY I DON'T KNOW!

OH, IT MUST BE THAT SILLY PHOTOGRAPHER'S MISTAKE! TOO BAD IT SPOILED THE FILM! BYE, BARKER!

BYE!

T-THE FACE! I'VE SEEN IT SOMEWHERE BEFORE ... B-BUT WHERE? PERHAPS IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION!



A MISTAKE? PERHAPS, BARKER CRANE .. PERHAPS! LATER ...

I WANT THIS PICTURE TO BE A BANG UP JOB, KRANDELL! IT'S FOR A VERY IMPORTANT GIRL!

YES, MR. CRANE!



BUT THE NEXT DAY, WHEN CRANE RECEIVES THE PHOTOGRAPHS BY SPECIAL MAIL ..

YEAH!
T-THE FACE AGAIN!



THE FIRES OF MEMORY BURN BRIGHT IN BARKER'S BRAIN! WHO IS IT? WHO IS THE HALF HUMAN CREATURE COME TO HAUNT HIM?

I-I KNOW WHO IT IS? YES.. YES! IT'S.. SOMEONE I'VE.. KILLED!



OF COURSE .. OF COURSE! THE STARING EYES.. THE DRAWN, WRINKLED FLESH! JUST THE EXPRESSION THEY ALL HAVE WHEN MY BULLETS SNUFF OUT THEIR LIVES! B-BUT WHO IS IT? WHO?



WEB OF EVIL

BARKER'S FEAR FLOODED MIND RECOILS IN HORROR AS THE PAST MOVES IN UPON HIM! ONE BY ONE THE PARADE OF PHANTOM VICTIMS GO BY...

YOU SHOT ME ON
WEST STREET
BRIDE, BARKER
CRANE! BUT I'M
NOT THE ONE ..
NO INDEED!

YOU DROWNED ME, REMEMBER,
CRANE! HA-HA! BUT I'M
AT THE LAKE BOTTOM
SO IT CAN'T BE
ME!

HEE-HEE!
NOR ME
EITHER!

NOR
ME!

WHO IS IT? SPEAK
UP! SHOW ME
YOUR FACE! LET
ME REMEMBER!

CHUNKER! HE'LL
KNOW! HE WAS THE
ONE ONE WHO
MARKED THEM
FOR MY BULLETS!

OPEN THE DOOR,
CHUNKER!
OPEN THE
DOOR!

WHO DOES
THIS FACE
BELONG TO?
SPEAK FAST,
CHUNKER!
TELL ME!

WHA..?
GREAT
CATS!
BARKER'S
GONE
LOCO!

YOU HEARD ME!
WHO IS IT?

I-I DON'T KNOW,
BARKER! H-HONEST
I D-DON'T!

LIES! YOU KNEW ALL
MY VICTIMS! SOME OF
THEIR FACES EVEN I
DON'T SEE CLEARLY!
TELL ME!
TELL ME!

W-WAIT! Y-YOU
WORKED FOR JOHNNY
DAVIE BEFORE ME,
BARKER! M-MAYBE
IT WAS ONE OF
HIS JOBS!



WEB OF EVIL

ONCE AGAIN, THE KILLER'S THOUGHTS WHIRL BACKWARDS TO DREDGE UP FORMER SCENES OF VIOLENCE ...



DAVOE NEVER FORGETS
A VICTIM . HE'LL
HELP ME FOR
SURE!

GOT YA PICTURE,
MISTER! JUST
TAKES ONE
MINUTE!



JUST FIFTY
CENTS,
MISTER!
OH-H!

ONE SIDE,
YOU STUPID
BUM!



HERE! GIVE
ME THE
PICTURE!

ULP?
A-AW RIGHT,
MISTER!



YI-I-I-



THE NEWS RACES THROUGH THE UNDERWORLD FASTER
THAN BARKER CRANE'S TERROR STRICKEN LEGS!
AT JOHNNY DAVOE'S HEADQUARTERS ...

JUST HEARD BARKER
CRANE'S TIPPED HIS
TROLLEY, JOHNNY!
SOMETHING ABOUT A
PICTURE -- HE'S
HEADIN' HERE!

YEAH! WELL
RELAX! I'LL
HANDLE
HIM!

HERE HE COMES
... LIKE A
WILD MAN!



SHORTLY...

WHY, SURE, BARKER!
I KNOW THIS FELLOW!
HIS NAME'S PAUL
WINTON, A JEWELER.
YOU KNOCKED OFF
BACK IN '50!

THANK
HEAVENS
YOU
KNOW!
WHERE IS
HIS HOUSE,
JOHNNY? WHERE?

WELL, ER,
LET'S SEE..
IT WAS 100
CYPRESS WAY!
YEAH, THAT'S IT!

GOOD! ..
I'VE GOT
TO GO
THERE AT
ONCE!

ON AND ON BARKER CRANE PURSUDES
THE SPECTRE WHO HAS INVADED
HIS LIFE....

..94 CYPRESS WAY..
96 ... GOT TO FIND
PAUL WINTON --
PROVE TO MYSELF
HE ISN'T REALLY
DEAD!



THEN...

YA-A-A-A!
A GRAVEYARD!



YOU'RE NOT DEAD!
IT'S ALL A TRICK!
YOU'RE ALIVE ..ALIVE!
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW
YOURSELF?



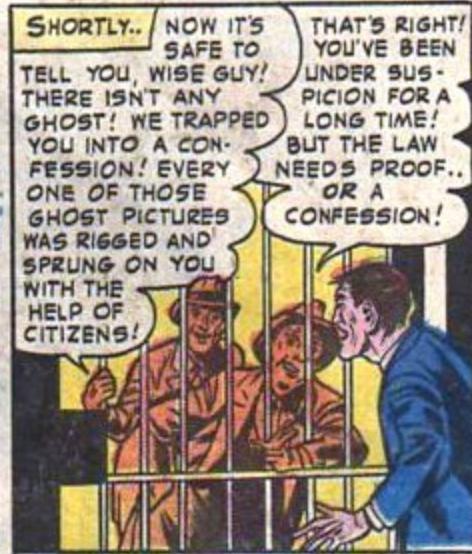
I - IT'S TRUE! HE IS
DEAD -- AND ONLY HIS
SPIRIT IS PLAGUING ME!
HE'LL .. NEVER LET ME
FORGET! HE'LL REMIND ME
FOREVER OF MY LIFE
OF MURDER!



I'M DOOMED...
DOOMED BY A FACE
FROM THE GRAVE!



WEB OF EVIL



THE HAND OF DESTINY REACHES OUT TO THE MAN WHO WORKED AT MURDER! STEP BY STEP HE DESCENDS BACK DOWN THE LADDER.. INTO THE MIRE AND OBLIVION OF HIS OWN MAKING..



FINALLY, THE VENGEANCE OF THE FACELESS VICTIM IS COMPLETE ...

BUT LATER, IN A DOWNTOWN NEWSPAPER DARK ROOM, A STRANGE NEVER TO BE TOLD ENDING IS WRITTEN TO BARKER CRANE'S CAREER ...



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3⁰⁰
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CARRYING
CASE INCLUDED**

At long last—after waiting for months—these amazing high power 18x52 BINOCULARS have just arrived from Germany. You can't buy them with any domestic manufacturer. They cost \$10.00 for light weight, rugged construction, and amazing clarity. You will be thrilled with the new GERMAN KLAROVIS lenses that give惊人的 MAGNIFICATION POWER, a wide field of view and sharp, brilliant detail. Smooth, SYNCHRONIZED CENTER FOCUSING MECHANISM! Just turn the knobs for instant, easy focusing on distant objects! Light weight. Easy to carry with you! Yet they are so STRONG, MADE DURABLY, that you can't break them or damage them! These make great presents. Boys and girls have always wanted a powerful field glass like this—but they didn't want to pay \$10.00. Now, buy direct from the importer at the unbelievable low price of only 3.00—while they last!

BIG SIZE! BIG POWER! BIG VALUE!

Please do not confuse the KLAROVIS with cheap, crudely made binoculars. This is NOT A TOY! 18-Mile Range KLAROVIS are NEW, BIG, POWERFUL! Made by proud, capable GERMAN ARTISANS to HIGH GERMAN STANDARDS!

A LIFETIME OF THRILLS AWAITS YOU!

When you have this power-packed instrument, distances seem to melt away. You always have a "ring-side" seat at boxing matches, races, basketball or football. You get an intimate view of nature, the sky at night, distant sunsets, birds and wild animals, distant boats, aerialistic scenes, etc. You see what your neighbors are doing without being seen. Carry them with you on hunting trips, etc.

HOME TRIAL OFFER—ENJOY AT OUR RISK!

We want to send you a pair of these super-power binoculars for you to examine and enjoy for 3 days—WITHOUT OBLIGATION OR RISK to you. Test them as you like! Compare them for value or power with ANY binoculars selling up to \$10.00. Then YOU be the JUDGE! If you're not satisfied, return and get your money back without fail! Order several now—one for every friend! They'll be grateful for years to come. Send only \$3.00 now for immediate free delivery. C.O.D.'s extra plus transportation costs. BETTER ORDER NOW! Make sure you get yours before it's too late!

SPECIAL DE LUXE MODEL WITH COMPASS

We also carry a special de luxe hi-power model KLAROVIS with COMPASS. A great bargain at only \$3.00. Check model desired in column. Quantity limited! No more than 3 de luxe models per customer.

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MAIL COUPON NOW FOR HOME TRIAL!

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GENTLEMEN, RUSH guaranteed KLAROVIS Super Power Field Glass Binoculars on 3-DAY TRIAL. I will pay postage \$3.00 plus postage on arrival. I shall enjoy them and use them for 3 full days and if not satisfied with this thrilling bargain, you are to send my \$3.00 back without fail. **SAVE POSTAGE** and receive a thrilling gift from Consumers Mart by sending only \$3.00 with this coupon. **SAME MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!**

No. of Binoculars desired _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TOWN _____

STATE _____

CHECK HERE IF you desire DE LUXE HI-POWER MODEL with compass—only 50 cents more—total \$3.50. LIMIT 3 per customer. Same money back guarantee and FREE GIFT—yours to keep, in any case.

- 3 x 40 mm. Power Lenses
- Big Size and Big Power
- Sharp Clear Views
- Center Focusing Wheel
- Smart Modern Design

Vampire Valley

HE was a small man, blonde and amiable-looking and gentle, and from where he sat perched on the high, cold rock he seemed to watch the scene below with detached amusement. Fitful clouds turned the moonlight off and on like a neon sign. Gray mist, like cold dead fingers, writhed and coiled about the rocks of the valley floor and crept wetly into the deeper hollows between.

The man down below came into sight again, a sinister figure in a long black cloak, crouched behind an outcropping of rock. He was obviously hiding there, waiting for someone or something, and now and then the moonlight glinted briefly from some shiny object half-hidden under the concealing cloak. The blonde man up above smiled gently to himself and shifted his own cloak closer against the chill of the night wind.

From up the valley came the sudden clatter of awkward steps, the rattle of dislodged rocks. A man came into sight, a farmer huddled in a sheepskin jacket, picking his way carefully along the path. The thin, dark man behind the rocks tensed, waiting. When the farmer was almost past his hiding place, the thin man stepped out. His bony arms stuck out, holding the black cloak poised like wings. Under the flop brim of a black hat, his eyes held a deep and sinister glitter.

The farmer stopped short with a choked gasp of fear. "Wha . . . What do you want? Who . . . Who are you?"

"You know who I am," the thin man said in a hollow voice. "And you know what I want . . . your blood."

"No! No!" The farmer seemed paralyzed by a shaking terror. He fell to his knees, sweat glistening on the palor of his lifted face, his breath coming in deep, convulsive gasps. "No!"

The thin man seemed to glide forward. He bent over the sobbing farmer. The shiny object glinted in the moonlight as it lunged toward the farmer's throat. A faint gurgling sound. The thin man stepped back, his cloak once more spread like evil wings. The farmer sobbed in crazy, panting breaths. "What have you done to me, you fiend? You . . . You vampire!"

"Tasted your blood," the thin man said. "Not too much . . . yet. Enough to whet my appetite. Eat richly, friend. Replenish your blood. I will seek you out again and again, until all your blood is mine, and you are one with the Undead . . . the vampires of Vampire Valley."

With a squawk of terror, the farmer scrambled to his feet and ran, lurching away into the fog, the sound of his yelping terror drifting back. The thin man laughed and held out the shiny object. It was a clever double syringe, made to stab through skin and suck out a small quantity of blood. Still chuckling, the thin man sent the plunger down, squirting twin streams of dark fluid onto a rock.

From above the thin man's head, the blonde watcher said in a mild voice, "You're quite a devil of a chap there, aren't you, with that fake vampire rig and that gadget that makes imitation teeth marks as it sucks a little blood from their necks? Tch-tch!"

The thin man froze, then very slowly looked upward. He seemed poised for flight, but uncertain. "Who . . . Who are you?"

The blonde man chuckled. "A watcher, friend. I've watched you pull that gag for seven nights now, scaring seven fine farmers into leaving the valley forever. Shame on you!"

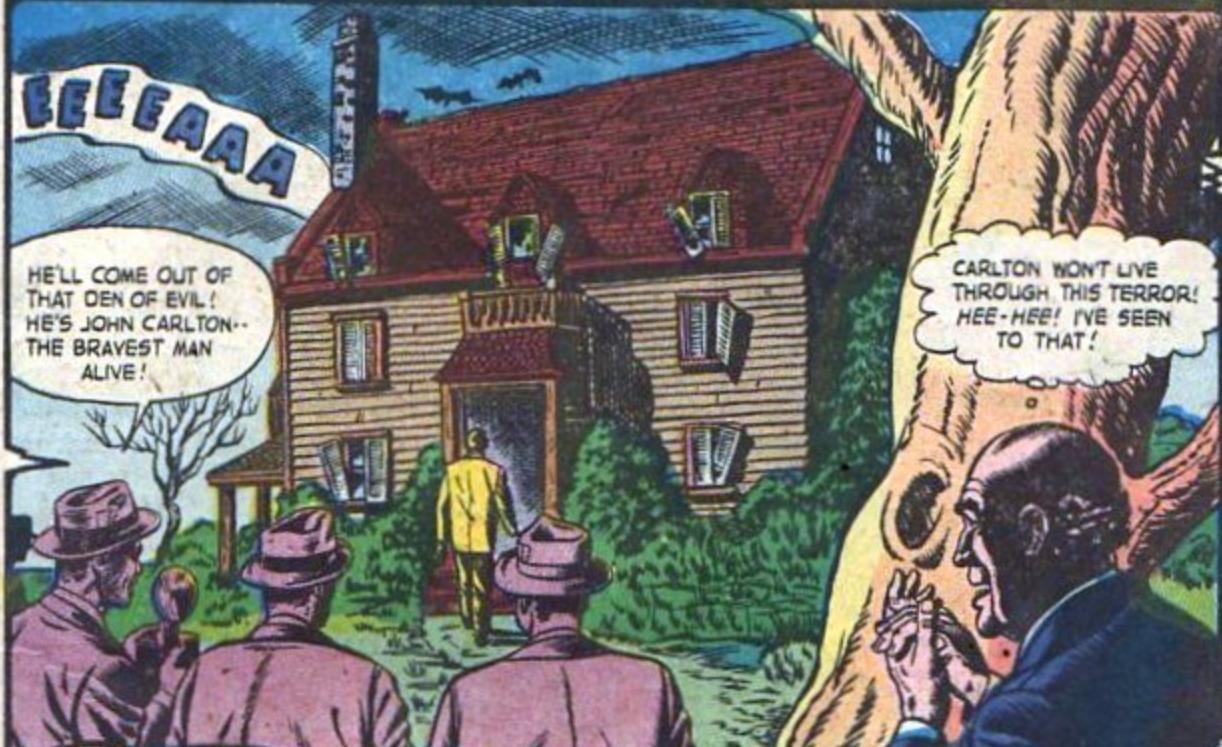
"Look," the thin man panted. "I'll tell you. There's enough in it for both of us. It's oil, all under the valley. This land'll be worth a fortune soon. With the help of the old superstition I scare those yokels into selling out cheap and running away. I'll cut you in. There's enough profit ahead for two."

The blonde man shook his head. "Doesn't interest me, friend. It's not my weakness, money."

"What is?"

Softly, quietly, the blonde man opened his cloak. Black wings spread and lifted. He flew lightly down to the path to face the bulging, horrified eyes of the thin man. He smiled pleasantly, showing sharp white teeth behind pale lips. "Blood interests me, friend. But not to waste in fakery. I am the vampire of Vampire Valley, and I assure you, when I feast I feast on all there is."

THE HOUSE WHERE HORROR LIVED



WITHIN IT'S FOUR WALLS LURKED THE TERRORS OF THE SUPERNATURAL-- WAITING, DEFYING, ALL THOSE WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THEIR EXISTENCE! AND IN ALL THE WORLD THERE WAS BUT ONE MAN WHO DARED STEP OVER THE THRESHOLD -- JOHN CARLTON, "THE BRAVEST MAN ALIVE"! BUT FATE AND A MIND STEEPED IN REVENGE WERE AGAINST CARLTON AS HE ENTERED .. THE HOUSE WHERE HORROR LIVED!

FEAR AND ENVY!
POWERFUL EMOTIONS IN THE BREASTS OF MEN -- AND WHEN ONE MAN KNOWS NO FEAR AND ANOTHER SEETHES WITH ENVY SUDDEN DEATH IS SURE TO LURK NEARBY-- AS IT DOES THIS VERY MOMENT IN A LONDON MUSIC HALL!

HOW I HATE THAT CONCEITED FOOL! BUT YEAR AFTER YEAR HE GOES ON AND ON DEFYING DEATH AND TREATING ME LIKE A SNIVELING COWARD! BAH! LET THE FOOLS CHEER HIM!



YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEM TONIGHT, MELVILLE! CHEERED THEMSELVES HOARSE! HA! THEY'LL REMEMBER MY DARING WELL!

I'M SURE THEY WILL, MISTER CARLTON!



WEB OF EVIL

DRAW MY BATH AND POUR ME CHAMPAGNE, MELVILLE! A MAN OF COURAGE MUST KEEP CLEAN AND FORTIFIED! AH-H, TOMORROW WILL BE ONE OF MY GREATEST FEATS YET-- THE DEATH PLUNGE AT THE CASINO!

RIGHT AWAY, SIR! I HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED THE PLANE TICKETS!

BRAGGART! ONE DAY-- ONE DAY YOU'LL HAVE YOUR COME-UPPANCE!

NEXT EVENING, PATRONS ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA GAPE IN AWE AS THE BRAVEST MAN ALIVE ASCENDS TO A PERILOUS PERCH . . .

AND NOW THE GREAT CARLTON WILL ATTEMPT THE HIGHEST DIVE EVER ATTEMPTED BY MAN!

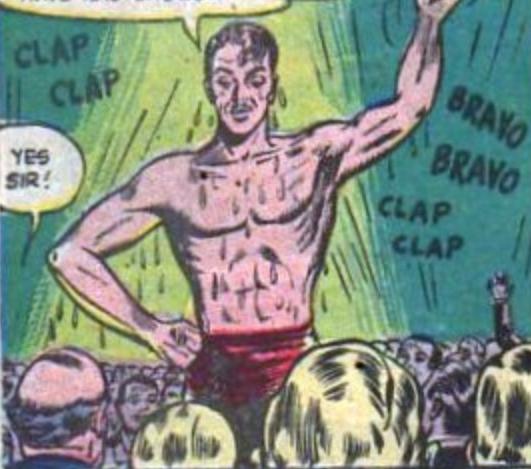
GODDESS! WHERE DOES HE FIND SUCH DARING-- SUCH COURAGE?

JUST ONE ERROR -- ONE MISTAKE THAT WOULD MAKE HIM KNOW FEAR!

THE DRUMS ROLL AND CARLTON'S BODY PLUMMETS EARTHWARD!



READY, THE RENTED CAR FOR THE TRIP TO PARIS! THE FOOLS HAVE HAD ENOUGH!



THE SUPER-CHARGED SPORTS CAR STREAMS ALONG THE MOUNTAIN ROADS -- AND FEAR MOVES IN TO SIT BESIDE THE PASSENGER!



WEB OF EVIL

TWO DAYS AFTERWARD, IN LONDON,
ENVY STRIKES BACK...

MY ACT NEEDS SOMETHING
FRESH, MELVILLE!
SOMETHING EVEN
MORE DARING!

HAUNTED
HOUSE!
I WONDER...

STUDENTS OF THE
PSYCHIC PHEN-
OMENA STILL
PUZZLED BY THE
MYSTERIOUS HAUN-
TED HOUSE ON
HILLBRANT HILL!
DOES HEADLESS
SPECTRE ROAM?

LATER, MELVILLE DRAKE APPEARS
AT HILLBRANT HILL...

YOU MEAN,
YOU'LL PAY
ME TO TRICK
A FRIEND
OF YOURS
IN THE
HOUSE?

EXACTLY! I'LL HAVE
MAGICIAN'S TRICKS
SET UP! YOU'LL
OPERATE A CONTROL
BOARD THAT WILL
SEND ALL SORTS OF
SPOOKS INTO ACTION!

I'VE EVEN GOT A
TRICK HEADLESS
GHOST I CAN GET
HOLD OF! WHEN
YOU'VE DONE YOUR
JOB I'LL GIVE YOU
ANOTHER 30
POUNDS!

BLIMEY, MISTER,
BUT YOU SURE
MUST WANT
TO SCARE
YOUR FRIEND
TO GO TO
SO MUCH
TROUBLE!

THE GREAT HOAX BEGINS! THE MAN OF ENVY MANIPULATES HIS CARDS OF VENGEANCE CAREFULLY...



I'VE INSTRUCTED YOU
ON EACH GHOST TRICK!
DON'T MAKE A
MISTAKE!

OKAY, GUYNER!
REMEMBER, AT
DAWN I GET
THE 30 POUNDS!

A GREAT IDEA OF
YOURS, MELVILLE!
THIS STUNT WILL
MAKE ME EVEN
MORE FAMOUS!

THE DOORWAY TO TERROR CLOSES ON "THE
BRAVEST MAN ALIVE"...

LOCK AND BOLT
THE DOOR, MELVILLE!
I'M HERE FOR THE
NIGHT!

INDEED I WILL,
MISTER CARLTON!

MINUTES
PASS...
REPORTERS
LEAVE...
BUT
THE
MAN
OF
ENVY
WAITS
BEHIND
FOR
THE
FIRST
PIERCING
CRY
OF
FEAR!



AHA! HE'S SEEN
IT AT LAST!
JOHN CARLTON
HAS SEEN FEAR!

WEB OF EVIL

THE HORROR STRICKEN CRIES RISE
IN TEMPO ...

IT'S COMING FOR ME! HELP..HELP..

EE-I-O-I-O-I

SUFFER, CARTON!
SUFFER THE
TORMENTS
OF HADES!

MELVILLE! MELVILLE! LET ME
OUT! UNLOCK THE DOOR!
IT'S GHASTLY.. PLEASE..
PLEASE!

WHY, MISTER
CARLTON, HAVE YOU
NO NERVE? YOU'RE
THE BRAVEST MAN
ALIVE .. REMEMBER?

THE FEARFUL WAILS OF A
TORMENTED SOUL RISE AND
FALL ACROSS THE ENGLISH
COUNTRYSIDE .. AND WITH
THE DAWN --

ALL RIGHT, CARLTON! YOU
CAN COME OUT NOW...
NOW THAT I'VE TAUGHT
YOU THE MEANING
OF FEAR!

OH OHH

THEN... G-GREAT SCOTT! H-HIS
HAIR.. IT'S SNOW
WHITE!



T-THIS COULD MEAN PRISON TO ME IF
ANYONE LEARNS WHAT I'VE DONE!
BETTER LOCATE THAT FOOL CARE-
TAKER AND MAKE SURE HE
DOESN'T TALK! CARLTON
DROPPED DEAD
FROM FRIGHT!



AND AS THE VENGEFUL SERVANT ENTERS "THE HOUSE
WHERE HORROR LIVES" ...

HO, HO! HA,HE! ALAS I HAVE
ME YET ANOTHER VICTIM!

H-HUH ..! GOOD GRIEF!
THAT THING DOES LOOK
REAL! NO WONDER CARLTON
WAS FRIGHTENED OUT OF
HIS WITS!



HOW DO YOU WISH TO
DIE, INTRUDER?
MAKE YOUR MIND
UP IN HASTE..
YOU HAVE BUT
LITTLE TIME
LEFT!



WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE
IS THIS! THE SHOW'S
OVER, CARETAKER--
YOU'VE EARNED YOUR
MONEY! I'M COMING
DOWN IN THE CELLAR
TO PAY YOU OFF!

BUT AS DRAKE ENTERS THE DAMP, OMINOUS CELLAR BELOW ...

T-THE CONTROL BOX FOR THE GHOST GADGETS.. IT'S BEEN SMASHED! BUT .. HOW ON EARTH ...?

MY FRIENDS AND I DESTROYED YOUR BOX OF EVIL, STRANGER! WE HARDLY ALLOW A MOCKERY OF OUR ..ER.. PROFESSION!

T-THEN YOU ARE REAL! CARLTON WAS ACTUALLY DRIVEN MAD BY A ... TRUE GHOST! WHAT.. DO YOU INTEND TO DO TO ME?

KILL YOU, STRANGER!
HAAAAAA...

N-NO.. YOU WON'T GET ME LIKE YOU DID CARLTON! I'M .. GETTING OUT OF HERE!

NO ONE LEAVES THE HOUSE ON HILLBRANT HILL.. IN HIS RIGHT MIND! MY FRIENDS WILL STOP YOU! YOU'LL SEE.. HE, HE!



HIS BODY WREATHING WITH FRIGHT, DRAKE RUNS LIKE A MAN POSSESSED TO HIS ONLY PROMISE OF SAFETY...



EEE-I-I.. THEY'RE AFTER ME! I'M ... LOSING MY SENSES.. GOT TO ESCAPE!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM US, STRANGER!



T-THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT... BUT WHERE! I MUST FIND IT FAST .. HUH?

QUICKLY, FRIGHTENED ONE! ENTER.. I WILL PROTECT YOU!



WEB OF EVIL

HURRY.. BEFORE THEY CATCH YOU AS THEY DID TO ME! HA, HA!.. BUT I'M STILL ALIVE, AREN'T I! YOU CAN BE TO IF YOU HEED MY WORDS!

U-UGH!
NOOOO!



BOLTING LIKE A TERRIFIED ANIMAL, DRAKE RUNS DOWN THE HIDEOUS HALLWAY...



AN INSTANT LATER, AS CURIOUS REPORTERS GATHER BEFORE THE HOUSE OF HORROR ...



IT.. LOOKS LIKE CARLTON'S MAN-SERVANT, DRAKE! POOR CHAP MUST HAVE GONE IN TO HELP HIS MASTER.. AND MET THE SAME VIOLENT DEATH HE DID! LOOK AT THAT HORROR IN HIS EYES!

IT'S.. HORRIBLE! SURELY NO ONE CAN DOUBT THE TALE OF THIS HORROR HOUSE NOW.. IT'S JUST DRIVEN TWO MEN TO A FRIGHTENING DEATH! PERHAPS, ONE DAY, THEY'LL TEAR THIS PLACE OF EVIL DOWN! LET'S HOPE SO!



THUS ENDS THE WEIRD TALE OF JOHN CARLTON, 'THE BRAVEST MAN ALIVE' AND HIS MAN SERVANT, DRAKE! AND WE SOMETIMES WONDER IF DRAKE WOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH WITH HIS FANATICAL PLAN COULD HE HAVE SEEN A SMALL ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING DAY'S PAPER ...



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235 STAMPS

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

ALL DIFFERENT!



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COSTA RICA — Famous bull stamp of Central American republic.

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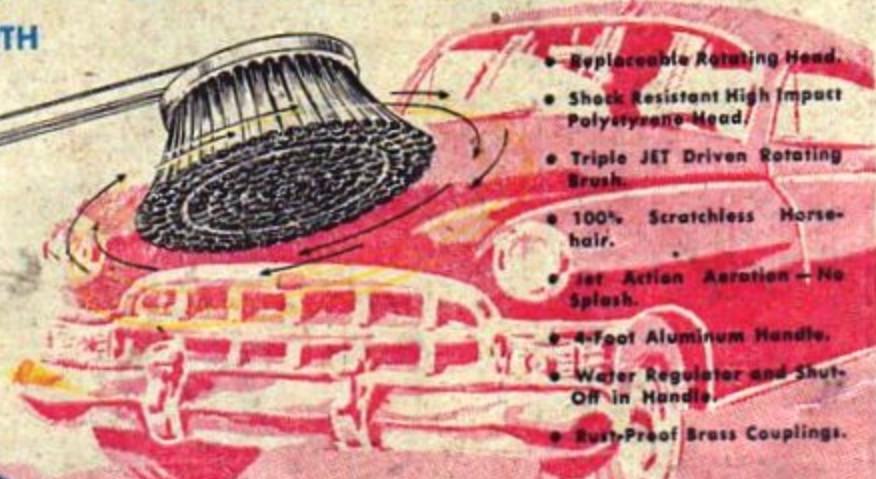
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ROTO-WASH

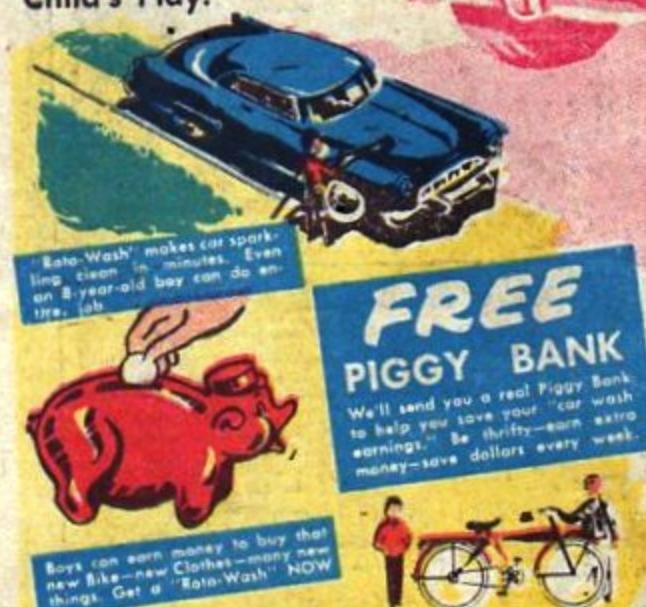
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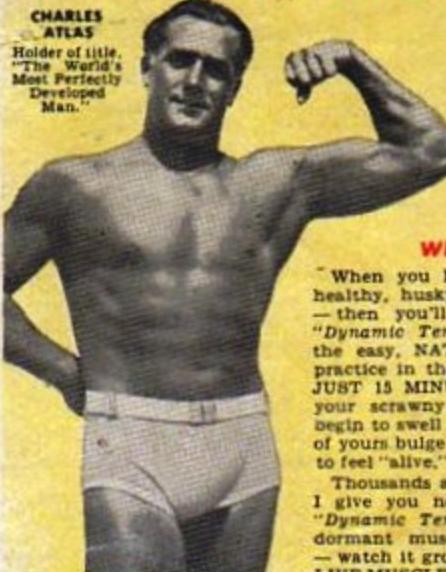
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